

Work Task F1: Vegetation Survival and Growth – Habitat Monitoring

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Purpose: Habitat restoration will be monitored for initial survivorship and successional changes over time to determine if habitat acreage goals are met. These data will be used to manage the restoration sites.

Conservation Measures: MRM2

Long-term Goal: As each demonstration or habitat creation site is established, Reclamation will monitor initial survivorship for two years. Monitoring successional changes will occur on a periodic basis over time, with the interval dependent on age of each stand.

FY05 Estimate: All restoration research demonstration sites and habitat creation sites will be monitored using the above protocols. FY05 costs are estimated at \$250,000 and include Reclamation staff, travel, per diem, and equipment.

Project Description: To implement the adaptive management program, habitat restoration projects must be monitored to determine if necessary habitat components have been provided. Monitoring the biotic components (vegetation) and abiotic components (soil moisture, etc.) will provide data to incorporate into future restoration efforts.

Vegetation will be monitored using two protocols. Initially, each restoration site will be monitored to determine if all necessary habitat components have been provided and to determine survivorship of the newly restored sites. After two years, successional changes within stands will be monitored as each restoration site matures. Changes in habitat quality over time, in conjunction with covered species monitoring, will drive management of each restoration site.

Accomplishments to date: Protocols have been established. Habitat restoration sites have been monitored using these protocols in 2004.